

Subj: **1804 dollar book**
Date: 11/18/2008 3:02:24 PM Central Standard Time
From: kbressett@pcisys.net
To: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com
CC: EricNumis@aol.com

Dennis,

I just got off the phone with Eric Newman. He told me that he very much wants to write something for the 1804 dollar book but simply can not do it by the December 1 deadline.

I am finding the same to be true here. Trying to work on the Guide Book and the 1804 at the same time just isn't working. And I see no way that we can get new pictures to meet your schedule.

So, here I am pleading for both of us to see if you can possibly extend the deadline so that we can participate in this project. In all fairness, we really were not given much time for such an important undertaking. Please do what you can to put off production a bit so that we can get back into the game.

---Ken

Kenneth Bressett
P.O. Box 60145
Colorado Springs, CO 80960
kbressett@pcisys.net

Subj: **Your biography**
Date: 11/18/2008 4:00:33 PM Central Standard Time
From: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com
CC: kbressett@pcisys.net

Eric and Ken,

One of the most challenging numismatic writing assignments today is condensing your biographies into brief "About the Author" blurbs.

When you have a moment, please take a look at the following, for the Tribute Edition of *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar*. Let me know if you have any corrections, deletions, insertions, amplifications, etc.

Also, with your permission I'd like to include your autographs on the cover of the book. Ken, we can scan yours from a bookplate. Eric, I can scan yours from the letter you enclosed with *Early Paper Money of America*. Let me know if you approve.

Best wishes,

-- Dennis

ERIC P. NEWMAN, a serious coin collector and researcher since the 1930s, has long been recognized as one of America's most important numismatic scholars and authors. He is the recipient of nearly every honor within the discipline, both national and international, including more Heath Literary Awards (from the American Numismatic Association) than any other writer. He has earned the prestigious medals of the American Numismatic Society, the Royal Numismatic Society, and the American Numismatic Association. His scholarship includes diverse works on colonial coins, paper money, banking, Missouriana, Shakespearean drama, and American history. *Early Paper Money of America*—just one of the classic standard references he has authored—was recently published in its fifth edition. In 1986, Newman was inducted into the ANA Numismatic Hall of Fame. The Newman Money Museum is located in his home city of St. Louis, on the campus of Washington University.

KENNETH E. BRESSETT, involved in numismatics since the 1940s, is also recognized as one of the nation's leading numismatic scholars. He has written many numismatic articles and is author or editor of more than a dozen related books; a past governor, vice president, and president of the American Numismatic Association; and a highly accomplished teacher, researcher, and student. He has served for many years as the editor of *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, popularly known as the "Red Book"—at more than 21 million copies, one of the best-selling nonfiction titles in American publishing. As a former consultant to the U.S. Mint, Bressett was instrumental in originating the 50 State Quarters® Program and in selecting many of the coins' reverse designs. He is a recipient of the Numismatic Literary Guild's Clemy Award and is an inductee in the ANA Numismatic Hall of Fame.

=====

Dennis Tucker, Publisher

Tuesday, November 18, 2008 America Online: EricNumis

101

Subj: Re: Your biography
 Date: 11/19/2008 3:46:53 PM Central Standard Time
 From: kbressett@pcisys.net
 To: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com
 CC: EricNumis@aol.com

Dennis,

Thank you for the nice write-ups. I made a few additions below for mine (in red). I am also attaching a copy of my preferred autograph, although any one of the bookplates would be just as good if this does not work for you.

---Ken

At 05:01 PM 11/18/2008 -0500, you wrote:

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Dennis,

Eric and I spoke about the 1804 book this afternoon. He truly can not work on this right now, but we probably can do something together. That is not unusual for us and might work out just as well for you. I thought that I had my part just about finished, but did not realize how much space you wanted to fill until you sent this memo.

What I have at the moment is about 1,275 words. It relates to both of us, but Eric has not seen it yet and will hopefully have more to add about his own involvement in the original project. We are both going to try and list all of the related articles and things that we have written about the 1804 dollars since publication of the book. I have no pictures of the two of us together, and doubt that Eric has. Yes, cameras had been invented back when we were young, but we just never thought much about having our pictures taken.

If this fits your publishing program we will proceed and do the best we can to accommodate your needs.

I have been in contact with the ANS about getting a color picture of their 1804 dollar. There are complications about publishing rights and costs that you will have to negotiate if you want to use their picture. Perhaps Mr. Anderson can pull some strings to get what you need, when you need it.

---Ken

At 08:06 PM 11/18/2008 -0500, Tucker, Dennis wrote:

>Dear Ken and Eric,

>

>Eric, thank you for your feedback on your author biography --- I'll work
>those edits into the text.

>

>I apologize for the unfairly "robust" timeline on this project. I
>underestimated and let time slip by.

>

>Our page budget (see below) currently has room for you (collectively) to
>contribute a six-page "Remembrance and Update" essay. Each page is 500
>words of text or 40 square inches of art. So that would be 3,000 words
>of text; or 2,500 words plus two 4" x 4" photographs; and so on.

>

>I don't think we need to reinvent the wheel (or would that be the
>cartwheel?). In my opinion the reprint of the 1962 edition, plus the
>updated coin registry, could stand alone as a valuable book, given the
>importance of your original research and its engaging presentation. In

>addition to those elements the Tribute Edition will have an afterword, a
 >brieF illustrated history of Edmund Roberts and his mission, plus two
 >pages from the 1947 Red Book, and new coin photos. Your "Remembrance and
 >Update" essay will be the icing on the cake.

>
 >If you have time to each pen a few hundred words, and perhaps share a
 >few personal photographs (pictures of you both together, researching,
 >hobnobbing with famous collectors, etc., would be fun!), I believe we'll
 >have a solid book for our readers.

>
 >(Ken, regarding new coin photos: if necessary we might simply illustrate
 >the coins we DO have in high-resolution color, rather than try to hunt
 >down every specimen. And/or we could focus on the King of Siam set,
 >given its particularly significant background. I have photos of the
 >Watters/Childs/Pogue coin, and the Mickley/Hawn/Queller coin, plus one
 >of the Smithsonian coins. I've put out requests for others.)

>
 >Back to the essay: Would Friday, December 12, give you enough time to
 >put a few words to paper, and gather a few photographs? What do you
 >envision for those six pages?

>
 >In 2012 we might do a bigger "50th Anniversary Edition," and I promise
 >to give you a much longer lead time!

>
 > -- Dennis

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 >CONTENTS and PAGE COUNTS

>
 >Reprint of 1st edition ... 144 pages

>
 >Afterword ... 3 pages

>
 >A Remembrance and Update, by Eric P. Newman and Kenneth E. Bressett ...
 >6 pages

>
 >Appendix A: The 1804 Dollar in the 1947 Red Book ... 2 pages

>
 >Appendix B: Edmund Quincy Roberts and the Diplomatic Coins ... 12 pages

>
 >Appendix C: Complete Registry of Known 1804 Dollars ... 36 pages

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 >Appendix D: Present Locations of Known 1804 Dollars ... 1 page

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 >Advertisement #1 of 2 ... 1 page

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 >Advertisement #2 of 2 ... 1 page

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 >About the Authors / Credits and Acknowledgments ... 1 page

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>2009 Copyright page ... 1 page

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>www.whitmanbooks.com/Default.aspx?Page=55

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Subj: 1804 book
 Date: 11/19/2008 4:05:44 PM Central Standard Time
 From: kbressett@pcisys.net
 To: EricNumis@aol.com

Eric: Following is the piece that I have written so far. I did not know the length that Dennis wanted so this is rather short. Perhaps between the two of us we can expand it to fit his needs.

---Ken

1804 DOLLAR MUSINGS - by Ken Bressett and Eric P. Newman

Looking back on how the 1804 dollar book was written always gives ~~me~~^{us} a chuckle. It is not that the project was anything other than a dedicated, intensive endeavor on the parts of the authors and contributors. What ~~is~~^{is} so amusing is how we ever had the courage to undertake such the project at a time when there was very little reliable data available to us, few ^{reliable} informational resources to draw upon, and none of the ~~modern~~^{electronic} equipment that we ~~have come to~~ use so liberally today.

~~About half a century~~
~~50 years~~ ago when ~~Eric and I~~^{we} longed to know more about the origin and background of the mysterious 1804 dollars, there was a veil of secrecy surrounding every aspect of how these coins came to be, when and why they were made, or even how many were known to exist.

The most generally available source of information at that time was a short paragraph in Wayte Raymond's *The Standard Catalogue of United States Coins*. It said very succinctly, "1804. The first dollar of this date was acquired from the mint about 1845. The dies being extant several others were struck between that time and 1878. Later strikes are from the second die. Of those struck from the first die only six are known." The pieces were listed in the pricing section of the catalog along with other Bust Type dollars, with the notations "First Reverse. Ex. Rare", and "Second reverse. Very Rare."

~~The same~~^{Similar vague} information was found in the specialized work of M. H. Bolender in his classic 1950 book, *The United States Early Silver Dollars from 1794 to 1803*, ^{and its further editions.} His comment about the 1804 dollars was quite remarkable. "The few rare and famous silver dollars of 1804 are so well-known to collectors that it was the intention of the author to omit this paragraph." He then went on to paraphrase nearly the same details that were found in the *Standard Catalogue*.

The R.S. Yeoman *Guide Book of United States Coins* was still in its infancy at that time but it was a forerunner in its attempt to shed light on the background of these esoteric coins. This description explains that two theories about the origin of the dollars were fashionable at that time: 1) The "originals" were made in 1804 as shown in Mint reports and other official statements, and "restrikes"

were made at a later date from dies found in the Mint. 2) Pieces were made between 1836 and 1842 using equipment and techniques not available prior to that time. The closing sentence in this description gave inspiration to the investigative work undertaken by several of us who wanted to determine the true origin of these pieces: "The 1804 dollar has been and probably will continue to be a subject of much discussion. Unless some new evidence is uncovered the mystery of its existence or disappearance will always be a matter of speculation for the numismatic fraternity."

Over the years after the pieces first entered numismatic ^{collections} ~~circulation~~ countless articles, statements, theories and conjectures were published supporting one theory or another in an attempt to explain the origin of these coins. By the 1940s it was widely believed that six "original" coins and seven "restrikes" were extant. They were referred to as Type I and Type II coins, and it was felt that they ~~almost certainly~~ were not made in 1804. Exactly when and how they came to be was the lingering mystery.

^{Bressett's}
~~My~~ ^{my} interest in learning the true origin of the 1804 dollars began ~~in earnest~~ around 1956. Locating reliable information and articles on the subject was a challenge. Fortunately ~~he~~ ^{he} was able to learn bits and pieces from old-timers like B. Max Mehl, Abe Kosoff, R. Green and others who had actually sold some of the coins. ~~I was also guided by~~
 A ~~the~~ pedigree history that had been constructed by Arthur D. McIlvaine ^{in 1941} ~~in 1941~~ and published ~~as~~ ⁱⁿ American Numismatic Society Notes and Monographs, Number 95, entitled "The Silver Dollars of the United States of America." ~~I~~ ^{Bressett} was also fortunate to be able to examine the specimens in the Smithsonian ^{Institution}, Johns Hopkins ^{University}, Chase National Bank, and Massachusetts Historical Society.

~~The~~ ^{Bressett}
~~I~~ soon learned that others were just as enthusiastic ~~as I~~ in a quest to uncover the truth about these coins. Through correspondence and occasional conversations at coin shows it became clear that sharing information with people like Walter Breen, Lynn Glaser and Eric Newman was the surest way to bring our individual research together and form some logical conclusions. Both ~~Newman and I~~ ^{Bressett and} were advancing along the same line of reasoning, but combining our research was a major breakthrough. ~~For both of us.~~ Working together was a pleasant experience that will never be forgotten. It was an exciting time of discovery, only hampered by the limiting communications of that day. Correspondence was hammered out on a typewriter and sent by ~~slow~~ mail. Pictures and weights had to be taken mostly by trial and error on improvised equipment. Note taking and recording material was extremely time-consuming without the convenience of today's ^{copying} ~~available~~ machines. We both spend countless hours searching through every book and document ~~available~~ ^{available} to locate even fragments of information about coins of the early ^{U.S.} Mint.

Amid the laborious research and writing effort that went into the

project were those times of exhilaration and mirth that made it so worthwhile. The spirit of cooperation among everyone involved was outstanding. ~~Time spent working with Eric Newman in his home was priceless.~~ Interviewing owners of several of the coins was a novel experience. Untangling the mystery was the ultimate satisfaction that provided a feeling of accomplishment.

Now, long after the tedious research work and drudgery has been forgotten, it is always amusing to look back on the many friendships that were cultivated, the new experiences that were shared and the unexpected incidents encountered. The last-minute discovery of the King of Siam set was one of the most important. The one that still keeps ~~me~~ ^{Bressett} laughing was the time that ~~I~~ ^{he} examined ~~the~~ ^{the} Imaum of Muscat specimen then owned by the Childs family. After spending a pleasant day ~~at Childs home in Chicago it was~~ ^{at Childs home in Chicago it was} decided to go out for a bite to eat. As a "security" measure the ~~dollar~~ ¹⁸⁰⁴ was placed in hiding on top of a ~~china~~ ^{China} cabinet. A couple of months later ~~I~~ ^{Bressett} received a frantic call from ~~Mr.~~ Childs saying "Ken, I can't find my dollar anywhere. I think it is missing." Remembering the odd hiding place, ~~I~~ ^{Bressett} asked "have you checked on top of your china cabinet?" ~~Yes~~ ^{because} It was right there and ~~we both~~ ^{resulted} in ~~got~~ a good laugh ~~out~~ of the great protection that had been given to a coin that eventually sold for over \$4 million. ~~\$4,000,000.00~~

While reminiscing can be pleasant, both ~~Eric and I~~ ^{of us} look forward to perhaps someday solving a few more parts of the mystery surrounding the 1804 dollars and other pieces that were very likely made in the Mint at the same time and by the same people. High on that list are the Proof 1804 ^{U.S.} gold eagles with their odd ~~reeded~~ ²⁰⁰ edges that are so different from normal coins made in ~~1804~~ ^{that period}. Many questions still remain unanswered about the quantity made of the Proof "restrike" dollars of 1801, 1802 and 1803. ~~Perhaps someday we may even understand the ambiguity of how the Coinage Act of 1792 was circumvented to allow these fantastic coins to be minted at a time and place when they never should have been made.~~ The quest goes on, and the entire story may someday be ~~exposed~~ ^{revealed} if not by us, then surely by ~~another~~ ^{those of} generation.

Kenneth Bressett
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Alfred S. Osthimer III of Philadelphia wrote an article entitled "Contemporary 1804 and 1805 Dollars Authenticated" which was published in the June 1961 The Numismatist and other media. He had just acquired these two coins for \$30,000 to add to his excellent collection of early U.S. dollars.

Newman had agreed to give an educational forum presentation for the 1961 annual American Numismatic Association's convention in Atlanta in August 1961. He thought Osthimer's conclusions might be an intriguing subject to research and to speak about, never before having undertaken any work on the subject. By examining U.S. Mint records and available images it seemed to him that such a matter would hold the attention of a sophisticated audience and felt that Osthimer was in error. Osthimer was informed that the talk would be contrary to his position. He brought his attorney and his metal expert to ~~the talk~~ listen. The talk was given and extensively published. Osthimer stated that he had determined to file suit against the speaker and any publisher for defaming the genuineness of the coins involved. No greater stimulus could have been provided for Newman to plough further into the subject more thoroughly. He and Bressett found consolidated thinking was the best choice. litigation never occurred.

The write up of Newman's talk although apparently correct was a substantial embarrassment to him because he learned months afterward that the subject had been previously published in detail in the January 1940 The Numismatist but was

unnoticed because it was erroneously listed in The Numismatist's own 1959 An Index to The Numismatist as "More Information on the 1804 and 1805 U.S. Dollars (D. F. Spink)" rather than 1804 and 1805.

* * * *

Such 1804 numismatic events brought Bressett and Newman together because of the mutuality of their numismatic research, writing and goals, developing their life long cooperation and friendship.

Jr.

When Asmon Carter, ~~Sr.~~, of Fort Worth TX, was asked ^{by Newman} about his 1804 dollar the owner's response was the mailing not only of his 1804 dollar but also of his 1801, 1802 and 1803 "restrike" dollars for study. When ~~Newman received~~ this surprise parcel arrived it was ~~the~~ ^{soon} noticed that the tip of the curl ~~point~~ on the left side of the top of the hair of liberty was clearly formed on the 1802 and 1803 ~~restrikes~~ coins but was missing on the 1801 and 1804 pieces. A close time frame of preparation of the dies was ^{thus} indicated for all of them but the order in which the dates were punched into the obverse dies was not specifically determinable. ^{It} certainly was not chronological. At least it ~~was to the conclusion~~ that obverse die preparation was part of the same abnormal endeavor as no other known dollars of the period had such a missing curl point.

Newman has from time to time emphasized that the 1804 dollar was a violation of federal law because the coin did not contain the date in which it was struck. Section 10 of the Act of April 2, 1792 specifically provided as to United States coinage that "Upon one side of each of said coins there shall be an impression emblematic of liberty and the year of the coinage; ***." This provision was in force in 1834 and was even reaffirmed in Section 13 of the Act of January 18, 1837. No U.S. Mint employee, no federal official including the president, or anyone else had the right to do or instruct another to do otherwise. Thus even if Jackson as president had ordered the minting of dollars or eagles for diplomatic presents they would have been required to be dated 1834 ~~as were~~ as were the other ^{U.S.} coins ~~in~~ the diplomatic sets.

As examples of the U.S. Mint's continual effort to ~~comply~~ adhere to the law requiring the date of minting to be on the coins minted during that year many ~~U.S.~~ coins from the 18th century and early 19th century had their dates modified with a later date before ^{further} use so that the date of the mintage and the date on the coin were the same.

As has often been pointed out there were no U.S. Dollars or U.S. \$10 eagles in circulation for decades prior to President Jackson's request for diplomatic sets in 1834 and the inclusion of these ^{two} denominations was another inappropriate action by U.S. Mint officials.

In spite of these ^{minting} technical violations the popularity of the 1804 dollar ^{and eagle} has never diminished and the zeal of people to own one ~~or~~ see one, ~~and~~ ~~the~~ or read about one has spread.

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The most generally available source of information at that time was a short paragraph in Wayne Raymond's *The Standard Catalogue of United States Coins*. It said very succinctly, "1804. The first dollar of this date was acquired from the mint about 1845. The dies being extant several others were struck between that time and 1878. Later strikes are from the second die. Of those struck from the first die only six are known." The pieces were listed in the pricing section of the catalog along with other Bust Type dollars, with the notations "First Reverse. Ex. Rare", and "Second reverse. Very Rare."

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Amid the laborious research and writing effort that went into the

project were those times of exhilaration and mirth that made it so worthwhile. The spirit of cooperation among everyone involved was outstanding. Time spent working with Eric Newman in his home was priceless. Interviewing owners of several of the coins was a novel experience. Untangling the mystery was the ultimate satisfaction that provided a feeling of accomplishment.

Now, long after the tedious research work and drudgery has been forgotten, it is always amusing to look back on the many friendships that were cultivated, the new experiences that were shared and the unexpected incidents encountered. The last-minute discovery of the King of Siam set was one of the most important. The one that still keeps me laughing was the time that I examined Imaum of Muscat specimen then owned by the Childs family. After spending a pleasant day with his collection we decided to go out for a bite to eat. As a "security" measure the dollar was placed in hiding on top of a china cabinet. A couple of months later I received a frantic call from Mr. Childs saying "Ken, I can't find my dollar anywhere. I think it is missing." Remembering the odd hiding place, I asked "have you checked on top of your china cabinet?" Yes, it was right there and we both got a good laugh out of the great protection that had been given to a coin that eventually sold for over \$4 million.

While reminiscing can be pleasant, both Eric and I look forward to perhaps someday solving a few more parts of the mystery surrounding the 1804 dollars and other pieces that were very likely made in the Mint at the same time and by the same people. High on that list are the Proof 1804 gold eagles with their oddly reeded edges that are so different from normal coins made in 1804. Many questions still remain unanswered about the quantity made of the Proof "restrike" dollars of 1801, 1802 and 1803. Perhaps someday we may even understand the ambiguity of how the Coinage Act of 1792 was circumvented to allow these fantastic coins to be minted at a time and place when they never should have been made. The quest goes on, and the entire story may someday be exposed if not by us, then surely by another generation.

Kenneth Bressett
P.O. Box 60145
Colorado Springs, CO 80960
kbressett@pcisys.net

Subj: **1804 Tribute Edition**
Date: 12/3/2008 5:03:01 PM Central Standard Time
From: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com
CC: kbressett@pcisys.net

Hello, Eric,

I got your voicemail, and started to call you back --- when I realized I don't have your phone number!

We're going to start typesetting this week or early next, so your timing is good. Let me know if you have any questions, concerns, queries, quibbles, or quandaries.

Best wishes,

-- Dennis

=====

Dennis Tucker, Publisher
Whitman Publishing, LLC
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Fax: 678-891-4599
dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com

← FAX

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12/6/08

Dennis Tucker
Whitman Publishing Co
Atlanta GA

Since you gave Ken and me a very short deadline to write something for your 1804 dollar publication each of us has tried to think of a few bits to send to you. If we were doing a 50th anniversary update we would have to amplify, amend and clarify certain sections of the book as quantities of material have been written by us and others. As you realize many mint officials, collectors, dealers, etc. have done their best in the past to promote and obfuscate the topic, stimulate value and make a sensational subject more fantastic.

To expedite I have written some portions by hand to be faxed to you. Ken has written a printed out portion which I have amended by hand writing. We hope this is helpful and satisfactory to you.

Rather than have each of us write separate comment we think it may be best to combine the comments under both of our names and mention our separate names whenever it seems appropriate. You can rearrange these parts in any desirable order as well as change, eliminate and edit them. You may telephone or Email any questions you have to either or both of us.

I am also sending a revision of the very kind biographical sections you prepared for us.

We think that it would be best if you can send us the revision of the portion we wrote for us to look over.

Thank you fopr thinking of us.

Eric

Subj: **1804: A Remembrance With the Authors**
Date: 12/8/2008 5:27:35 PM Central Standard Time
From: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com
To: kbressett@pcisys.net
CC: EricNumis@aol.com

Ken and Eric,

Thank you both for sharing your thoughts and memories for this essay. I've rolled them together using Ken's draft as the foundation, and recast the text as a "feature story" with quotes and extracts. This should lay out nicely at four pages.

I'm attaching the Word file (which shows insertions and deletions tracked), and a PDF (which shows only the text).

Please take a look and let me know what you think.

Best wishes,

-- Dennis

<<1804_Remembrance_for-approval.doc>> <<1804_Remembrance_for-approval.pdf>>

=====

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Fax: 678-891-4599
dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com

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Subj: **Re: 1804: A Remembrance With the Authors**
Date: 12/9/2008 3:36:08 PM Central Standard Time
From: [EricNumis](#)
To: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com
CC: KBressett@pcisys.net

Dear Dennis:

Thank you very much for consolidating the blurbs that Ken and I wrote for you on the 1804 matter and consolidating them into A REMEMBRANCE WITH THE AUTHORS. It is beautifully done. Being a nauseating proofreader I want to suggest a few minor changes:

On the second page the paragraph beginning with the word "He" is a little confusing. Please change in the first line "He" to "We". In the second line eliminate "and Eric Newman" and put an "and" between "Breen" and "Lynn". Then in the third line take out "says Newman, " This should make the quote by both of us

Under A CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT the paragraph beginning with "Newman" go to line 6. and substitute "the" for "Newman's". In line 7 substitute "Ostheimer's " for "his". That I believe would make it clearer.

*Under THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION line 2, please add the word "there" after the word "project" in order to make the sentence read better.

Thanks for listening.

Eric

Make your life easier with all your friends, email, and favorite sites in one place. [Try it now.](#)

Subj: **RE: Private to recipients**
 Date: 12/13/2008 4:00:53 PM Central Standard Time
 From: qdbarchive@metrocast.net
 To: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com, kbressett@pcisys.net
 CC: EricNumis@aol.com, mary.counts@whitmanbooks.com

Seems he is well represented on Google, incl this from eSylum:

[PREV ARTICLE](#) [NEXT ARTICLE](#) [FULL ISSUE](#) [PREV FULL ISSUE](#)

[V8 2005 INDEX](#) [E-SYLUM ARCHIVE](#)

The E-Sylum: Volume 8, Number 36, August 21, 2005, Article 15

MAP THEFTS AND A NUMISMATIC CONNECTION

Regarding last week's item about the theft of maps from libraries, Bob Leonard writes: "You might be shocked to learn that there is a numismatic connection to the following item, one of those 'Whatever became of So-and-so?' stories. An entire book has been written on the subject of map theft, *The Island of Lost Maps, A True Story of Cartographic Crime*, by Miles Harvey (Random House, 2000). On p. 159 we discover "Charles Lynn Glaser, one of the most notorious Jekyll-and-Hyde figures in cartographic crime....he was...a compulsive map thief with a criminal career that spanned three decades. Even before his legal troubles began, Glaser exhibited a curious fascination with fraud. In his 1968 book, *Counterfeiting in America: The History of an American Way to Wealth*, he took lengths to praise the 'few great counterfeiters...men of unusual skill or cunning' who 'ennobled the crime by demonstrating vision and industry.' It's not clear why Glaser himself turned to crime. He did sell the maps he stole...

"In July 1974 Glaser was arrested for stealing eight sixteenth-, seventeenth-, and eighteenth-century atlases...from Dartmouth College. Sentenced to a three-to-seven year prison term, he spent seven months behind bars before being paroled....Upon

his guilty plea [for stealing two maps from the University of Minnesota] in 1982, Glaser, who also admitted stealing two maps from the Newberry Library in Chicago, was given six months in prison....he pleaded guilty in March 1992 to stealing a map...housed at the Free Library of Philadelphia. Less than one month later, while on probation, he was discovered again--reportedly while wearing surgical gloves and carrying a hammer --in the stacks of Lehigh University...."

These brief excerpts give the barest summary of his frightening career as a map thief, which may not be over yet. Perhaps it is just as well for numismatics that he turned his attention from coins to maps, though the articles he wrote as a teenager showed great insight and promise."

Katie Jaeger writes: "Your notice about someone being convicted of stealing maps from priceless atlases reminded me of an excellent book called *Island of the Lost Maps: A True Story of Cartographic Crime* by Miles Harvey, Random House (hardback) and Broadway Books (paperback). It details the story of map thief Gilbert Bland, who destroyed hundreds of immensely valuable atlases in great libraries in the U.S. and Canada, by slitting out their map plates with an exacto knife.

This average looking, mousy little man never attracted the attention of librarians. He would spend a few hours studying books and taking notes, as though on a tightly focused research project, then he'd request the book he intended to rob, take it to his table, remove and roll its map plates into his sleeves. He sold them from his map dealership in a strip mall near Atlanta. He infuriated competing, legitimate map dealers with his "incredible luck" at securing great rarities, and his reasonable prices. He got away with it for years, and when he was finally caught leaving Johns Hopkins' Peabody Library with two maps up his sleeves, an alert was placed to all the other U.S. and Canadian libraries with famous map collections. Nearly all of them determined they had missing maps.

The best parts of this book to me were the in-depth look at the culture of map collecting, its characters and personalities, the fascinating chapter on the psychology of collecting, the discussion of how rare books are repaired and restored, and its excellent history of cartography. Bland's own story is never satisfactorily told. Harvey was thwarted in his every attempt to interview the guy while he was in prison, and he (Bland) has since died."

Wayne Homren, Editor

coinbooks.org Web

The Numismatic Bibliomania Society is a non-profit organization promoting numismatic literature. See our web site at coinbooks.org.

To submit items for publication in The E-Sylum, write to the Editor at this address: whomren@coinlibrary.com

To subscribe go to: <https://my.binhost.com/lists/listinfo/esylum>

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PREV ARTICLE NEXT ARTICLE FULL ISSUE PREV FULL ISSUE

V8 2005 INDEX E-SYLUM ARCHIVE

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-----Original Message-----

From: Tucker, Dennis [<mailto:dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com>]
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 5:00 PM
To: Bowers, Dave; Bressett, Kenneth
Cc: EricNumis@aol.com; Counts, Mary
Subject: Re: Private to recipients

We won't!

----- Original Message -----

From: Dave Bowers <qdbarchive@metrocast.net>
To: Tucker, Dennis; Bressett, Kenneth
Cc: EricNumis@aol.com <EricNumis@aol.com>; Counts, Mary
Sent: Sat Dec 13 16:57:05 2008
Subject: Private to recipients

Dennis, FYI in case you do publicity, Lynn Glaser was later arrested for stealing manuscripts from libraries or similar. You will not want to showcase him much now.

-----Original Message-----

From: Tucker, Dennis [mailto:dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com]
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 4:00 PM
To: Bressett, Kenneth
Cc: EricNumis@aol.com; Counts, Mary; Bowers, Dave
Subject: 1804: page proofs (electronic)

Ken and Eric,

I'm going to send you page proofs by email, in PDF format. Altogether they're about 4 megabytes in file size, which isn't too huge, and they should go through without any trouble. Just to be safe, I'll send them in five batches.

For the most part these are final --- although there are several minor corrections to be made, mostly mechanical (a comma here or there). The Parmelee photographs are still to come and I hope will arrive Monday.

Let me know what you think of these. We'll also send you hardcopies next week.

Best wishes,

-- Dennis

P.S. I'll cc Mary and Dave to keep them in the loop.

=====

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<<http://www.whitmanbooks.com/Default.aspx?Page=55>>

Subj: **Re: 1804: page proofs (1 of 5)**
Date: 12/13/2008 4:15:23 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com
CC: KBressett@pcisys.net

Dear Dennis:

Thank you for sending the current new draft for review.

I hope you receive my mug shot in color by Monday, December 15. Please confirm when you do. I presume Ken's image will be in color too and you will publish them about the same size.

Before checking any pages of the new 1804 book I found an inaccuracy in the older draft of the Remembrance so wait until I contact you as I have a numismatic visitor from out of town from now until late December 15 and cannot begin to read your stuff until December 16.

Eric

Make your life easier with all your friends, email, and favorite sites in one place. [Try it now.](#)

Subj: **Re: 1804: page proofs (1 of 5)**
Date: 12/13/2008 5:10:33 PM Central Standard Time
From: kbressett@pcisys.net
To: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com, kbressett@pcisys.net, EricNumis@aol.com, mary.counts@whitmanbooks.com, qdbarchive@metrocast.net

>
> Dennis,

Eric and I have just discussed some of the wording on page 149. We both feel that it would be best to eliminate the following sentence in the first indented inset that reads "Among them were Walter Breen and Lynn Glaser."

The reason for this goes well beyond the fact that both eventually ended up in prison. While they were somewhat helpful in supplying bits and pieces of information about the 1804 dollars, neither actually wrote a single word that appears in the book, and their help was not much more than that given by many others who shared our interest in the project.

Both Eric and I are just beginning to review the pages that you sent and will hopefully be able to get back to you early next week with any other comments. But for now we want to be sure that you eliminate any reference that singles out Walter and Lynn as special contributors. Obviously we cannot rewrite history and eliminate their names from the title page of the original book, but we do not want to give them further individual credit where it is not due.

---Ken

This message was sent using Endymion MailMan.
<http://www.endymion.com/products/mailman/>

Subj: **RE: 1804: page proofs (1 of 5)**
Date: 12/15/2008 9:49:14 AM Central Standard Time
From: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com
CC: kbressett@pcisys.net

Good morning, gentlemen,

Ken, I'll make sure we remove the references to Breen and Glaser. You mentioned p. 149; there's also a reference on p. 145, which I'll change from

"assisted by numismatists Walter H. Breen and Lynn Glaser, who would be credited as research associates" to

"assisted in their research by various members of the numismatic community, including several owners of the coins"

Ken, I've marked your corrections for pp 187; and changed "struck" to "fabricated" throughout the Class III listings.

Regarding the Rare Coin Wholesaler folks: Laurence coordinated the photographs they sent; Kelley sent us some information at Steve Contursi's request.

-- Dennis

=====

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From: EricNumis@aol.com [<mailto:EricNumis@aol.com>]
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 5:15 PM
To: Tucker, Dennis
Cc: Bressett, Kenneth
Subject: Re: 1804: page proofs (1 of 5)

Dear Dennis:

Thank you for sending the current new draft for review.

I hope you receive my mug shot in color by Monday, December 15. Please confirm when you do. I presume Ken's image will be in color too and you will publish them about the same size.

Before checking any pages of the new 1804 book I found an inaccuracy in the older draft of the Remembrance so wait until I contact you as I have a numismatic visitor from out of town from now until late December 15 and cannot begin to read your stuff until December 16.

Eric

Subj: **1804 portrait**
Date: 12/15/2008 5:38:08 PM Central Standard Time
From: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com
CC: kbressett@pcisys.net

Eric, your portrait arrived today. We've scanned it and will insert it into the book, and return the photo. Thank you!

-- Dennis

=====

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Fax: 678-891-4599
dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com

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Subj: **(no subject)**
Date: 12/16/2008 7:16:29 PM Central Standard Time
From: [EricNumis](#)
To: KBressett@pcisys.net

The citation of the last item I wrote and was published on the subject was:

A Restated Opinion on the Origin of the 1804 Dollar and the 1804 Eagle Proofs

published in America's Silver Dollars: Coinage of the America's Conference at The American Numismatic Society, New York, October 30, 1993

Include somewhere appropriate, with or separate from your item. Eric

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Subj: **1804: Remembrance text**
Date: 12/17/2008 2:52:40 PM Central Standard Time
From: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com
To: kbressett@pcisys.net
CC: EricNumis@aol.com

Eric, I've marked your corrections that you faxed earlier this week (about the 1804 dollars and \$10 eagles violating federal law, etc.).

=====

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-----Original Message-----

From: kbressett@pcisys.net [mailto:kbressett@pcisys.net]
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 12:37 PM
To: Tucker, Dennis
Cc: EricNumis@aol.com
Subject: 1804 additions

Dennis:

Eric and I would like to have the following two articles cited in the new book on 1804 dollars. They are significant commentary on the subject:

"A Restated Opinion on the Origin of the 1804 Dollar and the 1804 Eagle Proofs" by Eric P. Newman. Published in America's Silver Dollars: Coinage of the America's Conference at The American Numismatic Society, New York, October 30, 1993.

"The Nature and Use of Electrotpe Reproductions" by Kenneth Bressett. Published in ANA Journal Advanced Studies in Numismatics. The American Numismatic Association, Volume 2, Number 1. Spring 2007.

Thanks. ---Ken

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>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: kbressett@pcisys.net [mailto:kbressett@pcisys.net]
> Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 12:37 PM
> To: Tucker, Dennis
> Cc: EricNumis@aol.com
> Subject: 1804 additions
>
> Dennis:
>
> Eric and I would like to have the following two articles cited in the
> new book on 1804 dollars. They are significant commentary on the
> subject:
>
> "A Restated Opinion on the Origin of the 1804 Dollar and the 1804 Eagle
> Proofs" by Eric P. Newman. Published in America's Silver Dollars:
> Coinage of the America's Conference at The American Numismatic Society,
> New York, October 30, 1993.
>
> "The Nature and Use of Electrotpe Reproductions" by Kenneth Bressett.
> Published in ANA Journal Advanced Studies in Numismatics. The American
> Numismatic Association, Volume 2, Number 1. Spring 2007.
>
>
> Thanks. ---Ken
>
>
> -----
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Subj: **RE: 1804 additions**
 Date: 12/17/2008 3:00:56 PM Central Standard Time
 From: kbressett@pcisys.net
 To: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com, kbressett@pcisys.net, EricNumis@aol.com

Sweet! Looking forward to seeing the page proofs. ---Ken

> How does this sound: I'll work those references in as the first
 > paragraph in the section called "Looking to the Past, and the Future"
 > (pg. 150), thus:
 >
 >
 > Newman and Bressett didn't rest on their laurels after their landmark
 > publication. Since 1962, they have both continued to study and write
 > about the fantastic 1804 dollars. Their "25th Anniversary Follow-Up,"
 > presented in 1987, has already been mentioned. In 1993 came Newman's "A
 > Restated Opinion on the Origin of the 1804 Dollar and the 1804 Eagle
 > Proofs," published in America's Silver Dollars: Coinage of the Americas
 > Conference (American Numismatic Society, New York, October 30, 1993). In
 > 2007 Bressett authored "The Nature and Use of Electrotpe Reproductions"
 > (published in the American Numismatic Association's ANA Journal:
 > Advanced Studies in Numismatics, Volume 2, Number 1, Spring 2007).
 > The making of ... etc.
 >
 >
 > Ken, the Parmelee images arrived this morning, and we're dropping them
 > into the layout.
 >
 > You should both have page proofs tomorrow afternoon. Please continue to
 > review the PDFs, and send any more edits you can today. That way the
 > printouts are a backup only, and we can go to press tomorrow or Friday.
 >
 > Many thanks!
 >
 > -- Dennis
 >
 > =====
 >
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 > Phone: 404-235-5348
 > Fax: 678-891-4599
 > dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com
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Subj: **RE: 1804: pg. 151, autographs**
Date: 12/17/2008 4:33:31 PM Central Standard Time
From: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

We'll set them in alphabetical order, by first name!

=====

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From: EricNumis@aol.com [<mailto:EricNumis@aol.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 5:32 PM
To: Tucker, Dennis
Subject: Re: 1804: pg. 151, autographs

Dear Dennis:

If you want to be consistent about name order that is your choice. I have a conflict of interest and therefore do not choose to comment on the matter. Eric

One site keeps you connected to all your email: AOL Mail, Gmail, and Yahoo Mail. [Try it now.](#)

Subj: **Re: Fantastic 1804 Dollar: good news**
Date: 1/10/2009 12:03:47 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: kbressett@pcisys.net
To: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com, kbressett@pcisys.net, EricNumis@aol.com

How exciting! Of course I will be delighted to add my scrawl to the books and then forward them on to your Florence warehouse.

---Ken

> Ken and Eric,
>
> Our production manager was able to negotiate with our printer to get a
> reasonable price on a Limited Edition version of The Fantastic 1804
> Dollar. This will be a leatherette-cover edition of 250 books.
>
> Eric, can I mail you a package of 250 bookplates (plus a dozen or so
> extras in case some get damaged), to autograph and then forward to Ken
> for his signature?
>
> Ken, if you then return the bookplates to our Florence warehouse, we'll
> tip them into the books when they arrive from the printer.
>
> Let me know if your wrists are up to the challenge --- Ken, I know
> you've had to autograph Red Book plates in the thousands, so this should
> be a breeze!
>
> Best wishes,
>
> -- Dennis
>
>
> =====
>
> Dennis Tucker, Publisher
> Whitman Publishing, LLC
> 3101 Clairmont Road, Suite C
> Atlanta GA 30329
> Phone: 404-235-5348
> Fax: 678-891-4599
> dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com
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>
>

This message was sent using Endymion MailMan.
<http://www.endymion.com/products/mailman/>

Subj: **RE: Fantastic 1804 Dollar: good news**
Date: 1/12/2009 9:53:35 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Good morning Eric,

Thank you! I like the idea of Variety 1 and Variety 2 autographs ... perhaps a secret privy mark, too?

We'll get those bookplates in the mail for you early this week.

And I'll make a note for our warehouse to ship you and Ken each ten copies of the book when the main shipment arrives.

Best wishes,

-- Dennis

=====

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Phone: 404-235-5348
Fax: 678-891-4599
dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com

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From: EricNumis@aol.com [<mailto:EricNumis@aol.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 8:21 PM
To: Tucker, Dennis
Subject: Re: Fantastic 1804 Dollar: good news

Dear Dennis:

I have two wrists so that if one gets tired autographing the other can take over. Then there will be two varieties of signature from me. Of course Ken could sign my name as he is used to that type of work. How many extra copies do Ken and I get to give to relatives? I will not give any to anyone who might buy one. Thanks for your super-cooperation. Eric

January 12, 2009

Dear Eric,

I'm enclosing 250 bookplates, plus a few extras, for The Fantastic 1804 Dollar, Tribute Edition.

Please autograph these at your convenience, and then forward them to Ken Bressett.

Thank you, and best wishes,

Dennis

RARE INVERTED VARIETY:

mamuel T. D. 303



Eric P. Neuman



Whitman
Publishing, LLC

Subj: **Fantastic!**
Date: 4/21/2009 8:49:45 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com
CC: kbressett@pcisys.net

Dear Eric and Ken,

I apologize for the delay, but very soon you should both receive an autographed leather-bound Limited Edition of The Fantastic 1804 Dollar. I'll also send you a few extra copies of the regular hardcover edition.

The timing is good, with Heritage about to sell the Adams specimen this month.

Thanks again for your help, and I look forward to working with you on an expanded 50th-anniversary edition for 2012.

-- Dennis

=====

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<<http://www.whitmanbooks.com/Default.aspx?Page=55>>

Subj: **ANA summer show: Whitman book signings**
Date: 5/4/2009 2:29:52 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com
To: dennis.tucker@whitmanbooks.com

Dear Whitman authors,

If you'd like to autograph books at the ANA World's Fair of Money in August, please let me know.

A "yes" or "no" is sufficient for now. Once your schedule is set, we can establish specific days/times you're available.

Drop me a line today or in the next couple days, if you would. Press releases and other announcements will start going out this month.

Thanks, and best wishes,

-- Dennis

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